

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

December, 1987

No. 5



ALL NESTLED DOWN FOR A LONG WINTER'S NAP?

Well, not quite. But the Winter schedule for volunteer work crews will be cut back so that only on Wednesday afternoons will regular trips be made out to Rose Island with volunteers. We're most happy to report that except for removing some wood to make way for the insulation, the inside cleanout work is almost completed!

Our temporary dock will be left in this year for the first time for restoration carpenters Ned Reynolds, Hugh Whittle, Bob Ziegler and Joe Davis as they trek to and from the island during the course of the winter, measuring and repairing on-site, then reproducing the deteriorated parts and pieces of the lighthouse in their own workshops.

Volunteers to whom we extend our heartfelt thanks for their back-aching, mind-boggling, problem-solving, grant-getting, public-relating and just plain organizing efforts this past year on the lighthouse and the grounds are: Larry Allen, Bruce Bartlett, Jack Begg, Karka Boreri, Marge Bulmer, Curt Bunting, Joe Davis, Glenn Gardiner, Roger Gilman, Sarah and Ben Gilson, Dorsey Given, Pierre Guillemette, Charlotte Johnson, Pat Kirby II, Neil Leerssen, Ted Lochner, Chris Lutyens, Curt and Dana Magee, Jerry Quist, Ned Reynolds, Dave Robbins, Gerrard Smith, Ray Walters, Charlotte Watrin, Hugh Whittle, Virginia Wood, Chris Zepp, Bob Ziegler, the staff at Oldport Marine and the American Studies Club of Roger Williams College.

WELCOME A-BOARD!

The Museum of Yachting has appointed Mr. Edward W. (Ned) Smith of Jamestown to our Board of Directors to fill the vacancy left by Tom Benson's sudden death in August.

No stranger to the lighthouse restoration effort, Ned has long been one of our resource people, supplying us with important turn-of-the-century photos of the lighthouse, the old keeper's dock and the surrounding fortifications. We are grateful to the Museum of Yachting for appointing Ned, for not only is it giving us a much-needed voice from the Jamestown side, it has also managed to find someone whose interest in Rose Island is as deep as the man's he is replacing. You might say it runs in his veins, as Ned is Tom Benson's uncle. We are most happy to welcome Ned Smith to our Board!



WE TRIED IT WITH A PICK AND SHOVEL FIRST, but it proved MUCH easier going with the help of Henry Tarbox of Jamestown and his backhoe! Standing from left to right are: Newport volunteers Joe Davis and Roger Gilman; Pierre Guillemette, surveyor who is designing our septic system; and Charlotte Watrin, Graduate Student of Archaeology at Brown University who is the sifter and sifter of the silt from the test pit being dug. Among the fragments found, she dated a piece of clay pipestem to 1650 (about the time it was reported that John Cranston and Caleb Carr sold Benedict Arnold one fourth part of Gould and Rose Islands). Can you imagine what one might have said in those days after coming all the way out to Rose Island for a smoke and finding they'd broken their pipe?

RAFFLE DRAWING SET FOR JANUARY 31, 1988

On Sunday, January 31, 1988, the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation will hold a wine and cheese party from 4:00 to 5:30 for our members and for those holding raffle tickets in the Trip the Lighthouse Fantastic \$10,000 Vacation Raffle Contest.

In case you hadn't heard of our annual fundraiser, we are selling only 300 tickets at \$100 each to win the first prize vacation worth \$10,000. First prize winner(s) will receive a check for \$3,000, plus a \$7,000 travel coupon which can be redeemed in travel and travel-related services at Gulliver's Travel on Washington Square. Second through Fifth prize winners will each receive a check for \$100. One or more people may buy a ticket and the prizes can be divided up accordingly.

Tickets may be purchased at Gulliver's Travel as well as through the Foundation by sending your check and/or charge information to us on the form you'll find at the end of this newsletter.

If you haven't already contributed to our project, we hope you will take the opportunity to do so now.



EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN. The South side of the lighthouse is shown here stripped of shingles and sporting a new coat of plywood sheathing. When finished with insulation and clapboard, the building will look much as it did in 1912, but will be a more efficient shelter for the keepers who will live there beginning next year.

With the help of Charles S. Curtis' grandchildren, the Chases (see RILF News No.4), we will be able to restore their grandfather's first floor quarters as a museum, replicating and restoring the kitchen, dining room and three bedrooms right down to the furniture, china and other furnishings of the period. The second floor will be totally modernized as a practical, comfortable, ecologically-sound keeper's apartment, complete with a composting toilet, a cistern for gathering water and probably a propane water heater, stove and refrigerator.

Nashoba Systems Inc.

NUTSHELL

The Database Manager

WE'VE FACED THE ENEMY AND WON...HOPEFULLY!

Of course we're talking about COMPUTERIZATION! Hundreds and hundreds of names addresses and payment records are now in an "in-house" computer program. Of course, start up time was longer than we had expected, but this newsletter represents a milestone as the first mailing sent out to members with labels printed by the computer!

Here's how it hopefully works:

The line above your name on your label will tell both of us whether or not you are an up-to-date member. Please remember that memberships are separate from any other contributions you might have made. The current membership year started on July 1, 1987 and runs until June 30, 1988.

First, the label shows your unique ten-letter code name, then your membership category, when you first became a member and, finally, when your membership expired or expires. The following example is of an up-to-date family member who first joined in 1985.

MEMBERCODE FAMILY 1985-88

Mr. and Mrs. Lighthouse Member
Street Address
City, State Zip

If your label has only a MEMBERCODE and -, it means you are in our computer, but not in a membership category, even though you may have bought a raffle ticket or a piece of the lighthouse, or possibly attended a clambake. We hope you will want to become a member.

If you have no line at all above your name, then you are one of those people whose name was given to us as someone who might be interested enough in our project to become a member. We hope you will join us.

We have vowed to keep our minimum dues affordable and at the same time cover the cost of our mailings. While we want to keep as many people as possible informed about our progress, we obviously can't afford to do so without a return. Therefore, if we don't hear from you within a reasonable amount of time, your name will be dropped from our lists.

If you have any questions at all, or believe the information on your label to be incorrect, please call Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454. We hope you will update your membership in time for our January 31 party!

NEW YEAR'S DAY PICNIC ON ROSE ISLAND



What would New Year's Day be without resolutions, the Polar Bears, parades, football games and the Rose Island picnic? A long-standing tradition, our New Year's Day picnic on Rose Island depends first on Mother Nature's cooperation, second on Ron Ackman providing launch service from the Oldport dock downtown and third on a bunch of adventurous people with warm clothes and their picnic baskets full of food to eat and to share with others.

We hope that Friday, January 1, 1988, is a bright, sunny day with the wind (if any) out of the North or Northwest. This puts our South beach in the lee of the bastion and south wall of Fort Hamilton. We'll have blazing fires to keep you warm and one set up to cook on, so mulled cider, hot cocoa, hotdogs, hamburgers, soup or stew in a pot, and the like are all appropriate fare. Bundle up warmly for the launch ride, which will leave from Oldport at 10:00 to return around 4:00.

If the weather doesn't cooperate on the first, then Saturday or Sunday would be the next targeted days. There are no fees and no reservations required. For obvious reasons, we play this one really loose and as a result we have a most wonderful and memorable time! Everyone is welcome, so please join us.



Can we help you with your holiday shopping list? Remember, you can combine your personal gift-giving with a tax-deductible contribution to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation when you give a membership in any category or a piece of the lighthouse to those special friends and relatives on your list.

Please order as soon as possible so that membership cards and certificates are mailed in time for Christmas.

-----TEAR OFF HERE-----

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My/our membership dues are enclosed for the year ending June 30, 1988 as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Contributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Supporting	\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Business	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Founding	\$ _____

I/We would like to buy _____ Trip the Lighthouse Fantastic Raffle ticket(s) at \$100 each \$ _____

I/We would like to buy the following piece(s) of the lighthouse:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Window	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> \$700 Exterior Door	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Roof Section	Name for Certificate _____	\$ _____

I/We would like to make an additional contribution in the amount of \$ _____

☐ Payment Enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

Card Number Exp. Date -
Month Year

Signature _____

NOTE: Contributions to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purposes. Please mail this form with your check or payment information to P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840. You may also call 847-4454 to charge your purchase.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Wishing you a bright and happy holiday season



ROSE ISLAND
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